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Senate

The Senate met at 8:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, remind us that the things that unite us are stronger than the forces that divide as You give us discipline for today.

Help us to discipline our desires, that we will live without regrets.

Help us to discipline our appetites, that we will avoid the pitfalls of self-indulgence.

Help us to discipline our speech, that our words will build up and not tear down.

Help us to discipline ourselves in our work, that we will focus on pleasing You.

Help us to discipline ourselves in our pleasure, that we will honor You even with our laughter.

Help us to discipline even our thoughts, that the meditations of our hearts will be acceptable to You.

Strengthen the Members of this body with the discipline to do Your will.

We pray this in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEFICIT REDUCTION OMNIBUS RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of S. 1932, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1932) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 202(a) of the concurrent resolution of the budget for fiscal year 2006 (H. Con. Res. 95).

Pending:

Gregg (for Frist/Gregg) amendment No. 2347, to provide amounts to address influenza and newly emerging pandemics.

Conrad amendment No. 2351, to fully reinstate the pay-as-you-go requirement through 2010.

Enzi modified amendment No. 2352, to provide elementary and secondary education assistance to students and schools impacted by Hurricane Katrina and to lower origination fees.

Lincoln amendment No. 2356, to provide emergency health care and other relief for survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

Inhofe/Chambliss amendment No. 2355, to cap non-defense, non-trust-fund, discretionary spending at the previous fiscal year's level, beginning with fiscal year 2007.

Nelson (FL) amendment No. 2357, to hold Medicare beneficiaries harmless for the increase in the 2007 Medicare monthly part B premium that would otherwise occur because of the 2006 increase in payments under the physician fee schedule.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 6 p.m. shall be equally divided between the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. GREGG, and the Senator from North Dakota, Mr. CONRAD.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I know the majority leader is here to be recognized. I ask through the Chair to the distinguished majority leader if I could be recognized for a minute or two prior to his recognition. I know he has a right to do that.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I would be happy to yield.

THE CHAPLAIN'S LOSS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, simply what I want to say is we have our Chaplain, whom I have grown to care a great deal about. He is part of the Senate family. He counsels, he prays for us

every day. He suffered a loss in his family in recent hours; he lost his brother. I want him on behalf of his Senate family to know our thoughts go out to him. I wish I had his ability to counsel and speak with him as he does with all of us. All I can say is my thoughts are with him and, recognizing his strong faith, I know he will pull through, but I know it will be difficult.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will be getting an earlier start than normal in order to resume the deficit reduction bill. Senators GREGG and CONRAD have agreed to an order for the next couple of amendments. We will continue to debate throughout the course of the day. At 6 p.m. all time is expired under the order. The Senate will then debate the Agriculture appropriations conference report under the 2-hour time limit reached last night. The vote on that conference report will not occur this evening and we will set the time for that vote later.

On Thursday morning we expect to come in early and begin the voting sequence with respect to the pending amendments to the deficit reduction bill. When the pending amendments are disposed of, it is in order for Members to offer additional amendments. However, no debate is in order and we would immediately vote on those amendments. This is what we call affectionately—maybe not affectionately—the vote-arama. I urge my colleagues to show restraint throughout the course of both today and tomorrow with regard to the number of amendments we are going to be voting on. It is going to be an extremely long day tomorrow with consecutive votes and Senators will not be able to wander far from the Chamber. We want to stay within the time limits for those votes in order to expeditiously deal with

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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